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09/978,478	10/16/2001	Hiroshi Takano	50R4592	5133

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EXAMINER

NATNAEL, PAULOS M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2614

DATE MAILED: 05/11/2004

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/978,478

Applicant(s)

TAKANO ET AL.

Examiner

Paulos M. Natnael

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 10-14 and 17-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7-9, 15 and 16 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2,5,6</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim **15** is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 15 depends on itself, i.e., claim 15. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims **1,10-14, 17 and 23-26** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Srivastava, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0194596 A1.

Considering claim **1**, Srivastava discloses all claimed subject matter, note;

a) a television, including a video display, is met STB 130 and HDTV Monitor 170, fig.1;

b) a first analog input jack, a first digital communication jack, a second analog input jack, and a second digital communication jack, is met by Analog signal connections 123 and 124 and digital signal connections 126 and 127, fig.1;

c) a first video source connected to the first analog input jack via a first analog channel and to the first digital communication jack via a first digital channel, is met by the NTSC/ATSC TV tuner box 116 via channel 118 and to 126 via the bus 125, (fig.1) respectively.

d) the claimed a second video source connected to the second digital communication jack via a second digital channel, is met by panasonic HD-DSS-STB connected to the second digital communication jack vial channel 128b (fig.1).

Considering claim **10**, Srivastava discloses all claimed subject matter, note;

a) a first signal source having a first analog signal port, a first digital-signal port, is met STB 130 and HDTV Monitor 170, fig.1;

b) a first unique signal-source identifier, is inherent because otherwise without some sort of an signal-source identifier to identify and sort out the signal origins, the system may not work as desired and undesired results may occur as a consequence.

c) a receiver having, a first analog input channel connected to the first analog-signal port, is met by STB 130 which is connected to the first analog input channel 123.

d) the claimed a second analog input channel, is met by analog/digital cable channel, channeling the output of analog/digital cable 34 to the other analog input of Television Signal processing device 12 memory having a first device field storing the first unique signal-source identifier;

e) the claimed wherein the receiver associates the first device field with the first analog input channel.

Considering claim **11**,

a) a second signal source having a second analog-signal port, a second digital-signal port...is met by signal ports 123 and 127, respectively, fig.1;

b) and a second unique signal-source identifier, is inherent, because without some sort of an ID to identify the signal source, the system may not work or function properly, because there is no way to identify the signals coming from different sources.

Considering claim **12**, the system of claim 11, the memory having a second device field storing the second unique signal-source identifier, wherein the receiver associates the second device field with the second analog input channel, is inherent because without such identifier and devices field for storing the identifier, the system might not operate or function properly.

Considering claim **13**, the system of claim 10, wherein the first analog input channel has associated therewith a first unique analog-input-channel identifier, and wherein the second analog input channel has associated therewith a second unique analog-input-channel identifier.

See rejection of claim 11.

Considering claim **14**, the system of claim 13, wherein the receiver associates the first device field with the first unique analog-input-channel identifier.

See rejection of claim 12.

Considering claim **17**, the system of claim 10, wherein the analog and digital signals comprise video signals, is met by analog and digital broadcast signals Fig.1;

Considering claim **23**, Srivastava discloses all claimed subject matter, note;

a) a first signal source having a first analog channel, a first digital channel, and a first unique identifier, is met by is met by NTSC/ATSC TV Tuner box 116 which has both digital and analog outputs to the receiver 130, Fig.1;

b) a receiver having:

(i) a first analog input jack having a first plug identifier, the first analog input jack connected to the first analog channel, is met by analog jack 123, fig.1;

- bii) a second analog input jack having a second plug identifier, is met by jack 124, fig.1;
- biii) a first digital communication jack connected to the first digital channel, is met by jack 126, fig.1;
- biv) a memory storing the first unique identifier and associating with the first plug identifier, is met by system memory 158, fig.1;

Considering claim **24**, the system of claim 23, further comprising a second Signal source having a second analog channel connected to the second analog input jack and a second unique identifier, the memory further storing the second unique identifier and associating the second unique identifier with the second plug identifier, is met by VHS-VCR 120 which inherently would have a source identifier and the memory storing such an identifier is met by the system memory 158, fig.1;

Considering claim **25**, Srivastava discloses all claimed subject matter, note;

- a) a first signal source having a first analog channel, a first digital channel, and a first unique identifier; and
- b) a receiver having: (i) a first analog input jack connected to the first analog channel; (ii) a second analog input jack;
- (iii) a first digital communication jack connected to the first digital channel; and
- (iv) means for logically associating the first unique identifier with the first plug identifier.

Regarding claim 25, see rejection of claim 23;

Considering claim **26**, the system of claim 25, wherein the receiver is a television, is met by system 100, fig.1;

4. Claims **1-3, 10-14, 17-22** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Carlsgaard, International Publication Number WO 01/28255 A1.

Considering claim **1**, Carlsgaard discloses all claimed subject matter, note;

a) a television, including a video display, is met Television Signal processing device 12 and Display 14, fig.1;

b) a first analog input jack, a first digital communication jack, a second analog input jack, and a second digital communication jack, is met by the four inputs to the Television Signal processing device 12, from Terrestrial Analog Antenna 30, Terrestrial digital antennal 26, Analog Cable 34, DBS 20, respectively.

c) a first video source connected to the first analog input jack via a first analog channel and to the first digital communication jack via a first digital channel, is met by the Terrestrial Analog antenna 30 and Terrestrial Digital antenna 26 (fig.1), respectively, vial Channels 32 and 28, respectively.

d) the claimed a second video source connected to the second to the second digital communication jack via a second digital channel, is met by analog/digital cable 34 and DBS 20, respectively (fig.1), via Channel 22;

Considering claim **2**, the system of claim 1, further comprising a video selection circuit having a first analog input connected to the first analog input jack, a second analog input connected to the second analog input jack, and an input-select port, is inherent in that all the four input signals cannot be utilized simultaneously; rather, the system must have a way of selecting one signal at a time and an input selection port or jack for a controller command must also be available in order for the system of Carlsgaard to function properly as intended.

Considering claim **3**, the system of claim 2, wherein the television further comprises a digital interface connected to the input select port.

Regarding claim 3, see rejection of claim 2;

Considering claim **10**, Carlsgaard discloses all claimed subject matter, note;

a) a first signal source having a first analog signal port, a first digital-signal port, is met by the Terrestrial Analog antenna 30 and Terrestrial Digital antenna 26, respectively.
(fig.1)

b) a first unique signal-source identifier, is inherent because without some sort of an ID to identify the signal source, the system may not work or function properly, because there is no way to identify the signals coming from different sources.

c) a receiver having, a first analog input channel connected to the first analog-signal port, is met by Terrestrial analog channel, channeling the output of antenna 30 to the analog input of Television Signal processing device 12.

d) the claimed a second analog input channel, is met by analog/digital cable channel, channeling the output of analog/digital cable 34 to the other analog input of Television Signal processing device 12 memory having a first device field storing the first unique signal-source identifier;

e) the memory having first device field storing the first unique signal source identifier, is met by memory 18, fig.1;

f) the claimed wherein the receiver associates the first device field with the first analog input channel, is inherent because without such identifier and devices field for storing the identifier, the system might not operate or function properly.

Considering claim 11, the system of claim 10, further comprising a second

signal source having a second analog-signal port, a second digital-signal port, **and a second unique signal-source identifier**, is met by the combination of analog/digital Cable 34 source and the DBS 20 digital signal source.

Considering claim **12**, the system of claim 11, the memory having a second device field storing the second unique signal-source identifier, wherein the receiver associates the second device field with the second analog input channel.

See rejection of claim 10(b), (e), and (f).

Considering claim **13**, the system of claim 10, wherein the first analog input channel has associated therewith a first unique analog-input-channel identifier, and wherein the second analog input channel has associated therewith a second unique analog-input-channel identifier.

See rejection of claim 10(b), (e), and (f).

Considering claim **14**, the system of claim 13, wherein the receiver associates the first device field with the first unique analog-input-channel identifier.

See rejection of claim 10(f).

Considering claim **17**, the system of claim 10, wherein the analog and digital signals comprise video signals, is met by analog and digital broadcast signals Fig.1;

Considering claim **18**, the system of claim 10, wherein the memory is a lookup table, is met by system memory 158, fig.1;

Considering claim **19**, a method of uniquely identifying an analog channel associated with a signal source having a digital port connected to a receiver and having an analog port connected to one of a plurality of analog input jacks on the receiver, the method comprising:

- a) receiving a digital signature uniquely identifying the signal source;
- b) storing the digital signature;
- c) selecting a first one of the analog input jacks;
- d) determining whether any analog signal from the first analog input jack is from the signal source; and
- e) if the analog signal from the first analog input jack is from the signal source, associating the first analog input jack with the digital signature;
- f) and if the analog signal from the first analog input jack is not from the signal source, selecting a second one of the analog input jacks.

Regarding claim 19, see rejection of claims 1 and 10;

Considering claim **20**, the method of claim 19, wherein determining whether any analog signal from the first analog input jack is from the first analog input jack comprises:

- g) interpreting the any signal from the first analog input jack; and

h) presenting the interpreted signal to a user.

See rejection of claim 10 (f).

Considering claim **21**, the method of claim 19, wherein associating the first analog input jack with the digital signature comprises storing the digital signature in a lookup table.

See rejection of claim 10 (f).

Considering claim **22**, the method of claim 19, further comprising, after selecting the second one of the analog input jacks,

g. determining whether any analog signal from the second analog input jack is from the signal source, is inherent because any analog or digital signal must have a signal source.

h. if the analog signal is from the signal source, associating the second analog input jack with the digital signature.

Regarding h), see rejection of claim 10(f).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims **4-6** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carlsgaard, International Publication Number WO 01/28255 A1 in view of the APA (admission) fig.2.

Considering claim **4**, the system of claim 3, wherein the digital interface further comprises a digital communication port connected to the first digital communication jack.

Regarding claim 4, Carlsgaard does not disclose a digital interface further comprises a digital communication port. However, this is well known in the television and/or communications art. The admission discloses a digital interface comprising a digital communication ports DV1,DV2 and DV0. Therefore, it would have been obvious to those with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Carlsgaard by providing the digital interface of the Admission in order to made the system of Carlsgaard more flexible and versatile.

Considering claim **5**, the system of claim 4, wherein the digital interface is adapted to instruct: the video selection circuit in response to commands received via the first digital communication jack.

See rejection of claim 4;

Considering claim **6**, the system of claim 3, wherein the digital interface further comprises a look-up-table, is met by Memory 18, fig.1;

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims **7-9,15 and 16** are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art fails to disclose a system wherein the look-up-table includes a plurality of device-identification fields and a corresponding plurality of analog-input identification fields, as in claim **7**; wherein a first of the device identification fields includes a first unique identifier identifying the first video source and a first of the analog-input identification fields corresponding to the first device identification field includes a first plug identifier identifying the first analog input jack, as in claim **8**; wherein a second of the device identification fields includes a second unique identifier identifying the second video source and a second of the analog-input identification fields corresponding to the second device identification field includes a second plug identifier identifying the second analog input jack, as in claim **9**; wherein the memory further comprises a first analog-plug identification field associated with the first device field and adapted to store the first unique analog-input-channel identifier, as in claim **15**; wherein the memory further comprises a first plug-identifier field associated with the first device field, and wherein the receiver associates the second device field with the second analog input channel, as in claim **16**;

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Stinebruner, U.S. Pat. No. 6,133,910 discloses an apparatus and method for integrating a plurality of video sources.


McCoy, U.S. Pat. No. 4,301,475 discloses a combination digital-analog television switching system.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paulos M. Natnael whose telephone number is (703) 305-0019. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am - 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Miller can be reached on (703) 305-4795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PMN
May 5, 2004


PAULOS M. NATNAEL
PATENT EXAMINER